

(b) laterally blowing ammonia gas against the falling hydrosol droplets so that the surfaces of the falling hydrosol droplets are substantially evenly gelled in a substantially spherical shape

wherein said droplet nozzles are arranged annularly and the ammonia gas is laterally blown against the falling droplets from the interior of the annular arrangement of the droplet nozzles, and said ammonia gas blown against said falling droplets is positioned a distance below the opening of said droplet nozzles:

(c) allowing the falling droplets to drop into an aqueous ammonia solution and coagulate to form substantially spherical aluminum oxide beads; and

(d) collecting the aluminum oxide beads from the aqueous ammonia solution.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-27 are pending. Claim 26 has been amended to place the claim in independent form, in order to better define the invention. Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

Applicants also appreciate the courtesies extended to their representatives during the personal interview with the Examiner. During the interview the Examiner maintained the position presented in the outstanding Office Action with respect to the rejection of claims 19-